

SENATE BILL 19 of the Second Extraordinary Session
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8 and Title 9,
relative to creating a commission to examine the state
budget.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated is amended by adding the following as a new
appropriately designated section:

Section _____. (a) There is created and established a state commission, to be known as
the Oversight Commission on Government Spending, to examine the state's budget for fraud,
waste and abuse.

(b) The commission shall consist of nine (9) members including:

(1) Three (3) members of the Senate to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate as
follows: one (1) member from the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee, one (1)
member from the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee and one (1) member
from Senate Leadership;

(2) Three (3) members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
of the House of Representatives as follows: one (1) member from the House Finance, Ways
and Means Committee, one (1) member from the House Commerce Committee and one (1)
member from House Leadership; and

(3) Three (3) public members with appropriate experience in business or government to
be appointed by the governor.

Each member shall serve a two (2) year term. Any vacancy in the membership shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(c) All members shall serve without compensation, but shall be eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(d) The commission shall organize as soon as may be practicable after the appointment of its members. The commission shall biennially elect a chair and other officers.

(e) The commission is entitled to the assistance and service of the employees of any state department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

(f) The commission shall meet monthly and hold hearings at the places it designates during the sessions or recesses of the general assembly and shall report its findings and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly by March 1 of each year.

(g) The duties and objectives of the commission are to:

(1) Detect and eliminate fraud, waste and abuse in the state budget;

(2) Review individual department budgets and policies to prevent and eradicate fraud, waste, mismanagement, misconduct and other abuses in state government;

(3) Promote accountability, productivity, efficiency and fiscal responsibility in state government; and

(4) Inform the comptroller of the treasury, the governor and general assembly of suspected fraud, waste and abuse within state government and offer recommendations to prevent or correct such actions.

(h) The commission is authorized and empowered to hold public hearings.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

